

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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SUBJ: REACTION TO DEPARTMENT STATEMENT ON BOLIVIAN ELECTION
PROCESS

REF: A) STATE 178042 B) LA PAZ 5517

1. ONLY PUBLIC REACTION TO DATE TO DEPARTMENT STATEMENT (REFTEL A)
EXPRESSING DEEP CONCERN ABOUT ALLEGATIONS OF IRREGULARITIES IN
THE BOLIVIAN ELECTION HAS BEEN EDITORIAL OF JULY 17 IN CONSERVATIVE
LA PAZ DAILY "EL DIARIO".

2. PARTIAL TEXT FOLLOWS: THE OMINOUS MECHANISM OF DEPENDENCY
OCCURS IN ALL AREAS AND NATURALLY THE POLITICAL SECTOR IS NOT
EXCLUDED FROM SUCH AN UNEQUAL RELATIONSHIP. THE POWERFUL
STATES NOT ONLY TRY TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN THIS ANNOYING
DOMINATION IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE, BUT ALSO INTERVENE WITHOUT
RESTRAINTS IN THAT WHICH DEALS WITH THE ACTUAL POWER OF
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IN THIS WAY THE RECENT
DECLARATIONS OF STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS IN THE CARTER
ADMINISTRATION EXPRESS OPEN INTERFERENCE IN THE
BOLIVIAN ELECTION PROCESS AND THEY CONTAIN TO A DEGREE A VEILED
THREAT, UNACCEPTABLE IN ALL RESPECTS. CERTAINLY THEY ARE FALLING
INTO ERROR AND CONFUSION BECAUSE WELL INTO THE 20TH CENTURY
THIS OBVIOUS PATERNALISM, TYPICAL OF THE MOST RECALCITRANT
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NEOCOLONIALISM, IS NOT POSSIBLE. IF THIS WERE THE
WAY THINGS HAPPENED ELECTIONS WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY TO
DESIGNATE THE GOVERNMENT, RATHER ONLY
THE RELEASE OF A MEMORANDUM OF APPOINTMENT FROM OUR BLOND PROTECTORS.
THEIR OPEN SYMPATHY FOR A CERTAIN CANDIDATE DOES NOT HAVE TO
GO BEYOND SIMPLE SENTIMENT TO BECOME ACTS AND TO EXERT PRESSURE
IN FAVOR OF THE BENEFICIARIES WHO ARE CHARACTERIZED BY A POPULIST

POSITION, ALTHOUGH BASICALLY THIS DOES NOT IMPUGN THE SYSTEM."

3. THEN TURNING TO THE REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS, (REF B) INVITED TO BOLIVIA BY THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND WHO HAVE BEEN WIDELY CRITICIZED BY PRO-PEREDA ELEMENTS, THE EDITORIAL CONTINUES, "MOREOVER, THE EXPRESSIONS OF THE SO-CALLED FOREIGN OBSERVERS HAVE LOST OBJECTIVITY AND HAVE COME CLOSE TO BEING AN OPEN INSULT. THIS INCLUDES ONE (GOLDMAN) WHO WITH A DEPLORABLE ATTITUDE, EMPHASIZED WITH A THUNDERING VOICE THAT HE WOULD PRESENT HIMSELF BEFORE THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO DELIVER THE ADVERSE REPORT WITH THE OBJECTIVE THAT OFFICIAL MEASURES BE TAKEN. NOT TO BE OVERLOOKED EITHER IS ANOTHER DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE WHO HAS GONE BEYOND THE SPECIFIC LIMITS OF HIS MISSION TO MAKE KNOWN HIS CLEARLY ERRONEOUS VIEWS (THIS MAY REFER TO THE VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR). THUS, A WEB OF CAPRICIOUS INTERPRETATION IS WOVEN THAT INJURES THE NATIONAL DIGNITY AND THAT MAKES IT VERY CLEAR THAT IT IS FOREIGN ELEMENTS THAT ARE PASSING JUDGMENT ON THE DOMESTIC SITUATION. TO THE FOREGOING CAN BE ADDED VEILED REPRISALS THAT CONSTITUTE OPEN INTERFERENCE. THIS FOREIGN PRESSURE MUST BE REJECTED BRAVELY AND IT MUST BE STATED THAT NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO ARROGATE TO THEMSELVES THE PRIVILEGES OF A VICEROY IN BOLIVIA, REMINDING THEM THAT BOLIVIA WON ITS INDEPENDENCE IN 1825 THROUGH BLOODY SACRIFICE AND THAT THE IMPOSITION OF A NEW NEOCOLONIAL RULE WILL NOT BE PERMITTED."

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4. IN OUR DIRECT CONTACTS WITH BOLIVIANS WE HAVE FOUND THEIR REACTION TO THE DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT RANGING FROM STOIC (ON THE RIGHT) TO SYMPATHETIC (ON THE LEFT). BANZER HIMSELF, WE UNDERSTAND, WAS QUITE UPSET BY THE STATEMENT. IN GENERAL, MANY BOLIVIANS RECOGNIZE THAT THE QUESTION OF ELECTORAL FRAUD HAS GIVEN THEM A SERIOUS IMAGE PROBLEM ABROAD.
BOEKER

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